

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 24 Dec 1948

SUBJECT **Disaffection in the Armed Forces of Ecuador**

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(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. Prior to 1 December 1948 25X1X6

**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

1. On 26 November General Luis Larrea Alba, prominent leader of the Vanguardia Revolucionaria Socialista del Ecuador (VRSE) and a perennial revolutionist, requested Dr. Eduardo Ludena to contact anti-Plaza revolutionary elements in Guayaquil. Dr. Ludena, although generally regarded as a Communist, handles VRSE matters of a clandestine nature. VRSE is a radical socialist party closely affiliated with the Communist Party. Ludena's mission was to arrange for coordination between the Quito and Guayaquil revolutionary factions.
2. During Larrea's tenure of office as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, he built up a following in the infantry regiment "Vencedores" in Quito, as well as among junior officers and non-commissioned officers, who either owe their positions to Larrea or are members of VRSE. [REDACTED] Comment: The Vencedores unit is fully equipped with United States arms and approximates the fire power of an American infantry battalion, including automatic weapons and "bazookas". Larrea is also affiliated with a secret military group known as the "Liga del Fusil". (See [REDACTED])
3. On 29 November Victor M. Villegas, a secret courier for the Liga del Fusil, was offered a position by the Minister of National Defense in the Ministry's Secret Intelligence Service. Villegas accepted this offer and promised to supply the Minister with information on military activities and any plan of action against the Government. However, on reporting this to General Larrea, Villegas assured him that the information he would pass along would be of a harmless nature.
4. Lt. Colonel Bolivar Galvez and Captain Alberto Burbano are also endeavoring to enlist the support of certain retired military personnel in a movement against the administration.
5. Colonel Carlos Mancheno is presently backing Lt. Colonel Cesar Alfaro's revolutionary movement. This combination comprises a substantial force within the Armed Forces. Moreover, Mancheno is believed to have retained the loyalty of most of the officers and men who defended his military dictatorship of August 1947.

This document is hereby regraded to
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letter of 16 October 1973 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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6. Several reports have also indicated that Lt. Colonel Alberto Pittman, Ecuadoran Military Attache to Peru, will return to Ecuador to lead a military revolt. ~~Comment.~~ Although Pittman has a certain following within the army and is a dictator type, there is no confirmation that he is involved in any of the revolutionary groups identified to date.)

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